



National Organic Coalition

[www.NationalOrganicCoalition.org](http://www.NationalOrganicCoalition.org)

## **NOC NEWS**

September 22, 2011

**See News below about these topics:**

139 Organizations Demand USDA Bio-Tech Regulations

ACTION ALERT - Protect Farmers from Unfair Treatment

Save the Date - Pre NOSB Meeting Nov. 28

USDA NOSB Meeting 11/29 - 12/2 2011

Farm Bill Update

Right2Know March

PUBAT Challenges Monsanto Patents

Lawsuit to Halt GE Crops on Refuges

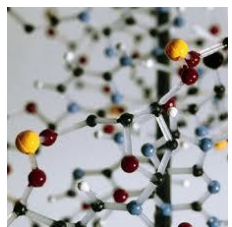
Smart Seafood Guide from Food & Water Watch

Oren Holle on Organic Commodity Futures

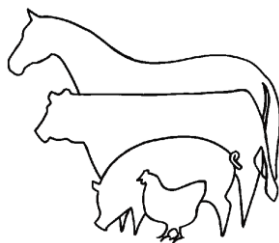
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### **139 Organizations and Farms Sign On to Letter to USDA Demanding Bio-Tech Regulations**

139 organizations representing thousands of American farmers, consumers, and retailers, sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Vilsack asking him to implement his authority under the Plant Protection Act of 2000 (PPA) to fully protect the public health, the environment, and the economic interests of the United States, by instituting real regulation of genetically engineered crops.



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### **\*\* ACTION ALERT \*\***

### **PROTECT CONTRACT FARMERS FROM UNFAIR TREATMENT**

The meat and poultry industry is fighting hard against the proposed USDA GIPSA rule, which would protect contract farmers from unfair treatment. The House of Representatives has already passed legislation that would kill the rule. Now, we have to be sure that the Senate doesn't pass similar legislation.

In the beginning of September, we made it through the Senate Appropriations Committee meeting without any bad amendments being offered to kill or delay the rule. That is really good news. This historic rule will protect farmers' investments and end many unfair practices in the poultry, hog and livestock industries.

**But we are not out of the woods yet. Senators can still offer an amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill on the Senate floor that would kill the GIPSA rule.**

**Please call both of your senators this week and ask them to oppose any amendments to stop or delay the GIPSA rule.**

**Call your senators at (202) 224-3121**

Ask to speak with the agriculture legislative assistant. Here is a sample message to use:  
I am a constituent who strongly supports the proposed USDA rule on poultry and livestock. The rule will level the playing field for growers and correct many of the abuses that they are facing. Will the Senator stand up for farmers and **oppose any amendments to the appropriations bill that would stop or delay USDA from writing a final rule?** Please call me at [YOUR PHONE NUMBER] to let me know where the Senator stands on this important issue.

Please let [RAFI](#) know the results of your call. Together, we can keep the GISPA rule alive

Read more about [Contract Agriculture Reform](#) on RAFI's website

P.S. Some senators are on the fence on this issue. Calls are best way to make sure they know that they should support farmers. Please take a minute to call (202) 224-3121 and ask your Senators to protect farm jobs and farm families.

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## **SAVE the DATE!**

### **You're Invited to NOC pre-NOSB Meeting**

**Monday, November 28, 2011 -- 2 pm to 7 pm**

*(That's the day before the NOSB)*

Hilton Savannah DeSoto, Savannah, Georgia

Coffee/Drinks & Snacks are included

Please RSVP to Liana Hoodes via email at:

[Liana@NationalOrganicCoalition.org](mailto:Liana@NationalOrganicCoalition.org)

USDA has reserved a block of hotel rooms at a rate of \$97.00/night

**Make your own reservations by calling 1-912-232-9000**

The three letter code for reservations is **UDA**

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### **USDA National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)**

**Meeting Tue. November 29 - Fri. December 2, 2011**

[Hilton Savannah DeSoto](#) - 15 East Liberty Street

Savannah, Georgia 31401

More information coming soon.

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### **Farm Bill Update**

Work on the Farm Bill 2012 is proceeding this fall -- whether it happens within the overall budget debate or in a longer-term approach to a "2012" Omnibus piece of legislation, or something in between.

See NOC's [Organic Agenda summary here](#), or watch our [Farm Bill Page](#) for more information.

See the Farm Bill Platform of the [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition here](#), and watch their website for more action.



**Watch for alerts -- If you received this email directly you are already on our mailing list, if this was forwarded to you and you would like to get NOC Alerts directly from NOC's Action network , please send us an email with your information to: [info@NationalOrganicCoalition.org](mailto:info@NationalOrganicCoalition.org)**

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## Support the Upcoming "Right2Know" March from NYC to the White House - October 1-16th

Between October 1-16th, marchers from all across the country will be walking from New York City to the White House in Washington DC, demanding labeling of all Genetically Engineered Foods, in what has become to be called the GMO Right to Know march.

For more details of the route, visit: [www.right2knowmarch.org/the-march/route-map/](http://www.right2knowmarch.org/the-march/route-map/)

### Get Involved!

Sign up, bring a group, join the Right2Know community! We are looking for walkers, bikers, drivers, volunteers, cheerleaders, hosts and any other supporters out there. Register today at [www.Right2KnowMarch.org](http://www.Right2KnowMarch.org)

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### PUBAT Files Suit Challenging Monsanto Seed Patents

In March 2011, PUBPAT filed suit on behalf of 60 family farmers, seed businesses and organic agricultural organizations against Monsanto Company to challenge the chemical giant's patents on genetically modified seed. The organic plaintiffs were forced to sue preemptively to protect themselves from being accused of patent infringement should they ever become contaminated by Monsanto's genetically modified seed, something Monsanto has done to others in the past. The case, Organic Seed Growers & Trade Association, et al. v. Monsanto, was filed in federal district court in NYC. In June, 2011, 23 additional plaintiffs were added to the suit, bringing the total number to 83.

Watch CBS News reports about the threat that genetically modified seed poses to organic farmers and about Monsanto's history of falsely accusing farmers who did not want anything to do with genetically modified seed of patent infringement:

<http://www.pubpat.org/monsanto-seed-patents.htm>

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### Lawsuit To Halt GE Crops On Southeastern Refuges: Genetically Engineered Crops on 25 Refuges in 8 States Are Illegal

August 12, 2011

A lawsuit filed federal court against the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) seeks to end cultivation of genetically engineered (GE) crops on twenty-five national wildlife refuges across the U.S. Southeast. The suit is the latest step in a campaign to banish GE crops from all refuges.

For more information go to the [CFS Website](#).



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### Food & Water Watch - Smart Seafood Guide

Whether it's from the Gulf or the Pacific, New England or the South, get smart about the seafood you're eating.

Download the pocket guide, the fact sheet for information on invasive species and read additional information about the seafood on your plate!

<http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/fish/seafood/guide/>

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## Organic Commodity Futures Trading Is a Step Backwards

**By: Oren Holle, OFARM President**

In this editorial, OFARM President Oren Holle lays out a strong argument as to why OFARM believes commodity futures trading for organics is not a good idea for organic producers. Researchers attached to the U.S. Department of Commerce are currently studying why they think this might be a good option for organic farmers. This work is projected to be published in December, 2011. See Oren's rebuttal [here](#).



***"The organic food system thrives as an alternative to, not a junior version of, the conventional industrial model. Farmers, not speculators, are where pricing of organic products must begin." O. Holle***

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